

Members

Sen. James Merritt, Chair
Sen. Scott Schneider
Sen. James Lewis
Sen. Richard Young
Rep. Robert Bischoff, Vice-Chair
Rep. Joseph Pearson
Rep. William Ruppel
Rep. Phyllis Pond



STATE FAIR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Legislative Services Agency

200 West Washington Street, Suite 301

Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2789

Tel: (317) 233-0696 Fax: (317) 232-2554

LSA Staff:

Bernadette Bartlett, Fiscal Analyst for the
Committee
Steven Wenning, Attorney for the Committee

Authority: IC 15-1-1.5-4

MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: July 20, 2010
Meeting Time: 1:00 p.m.
Meeting Place: Board Room, Administration Building,
State Fairgrounds
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 1

Members Present: Sen. James Merritt, Chair; Sen. Richard Young; Rep. Robert Bischoff, Vice-Chair; Rep. Joseph Pearson; Rep. William Ruppel; Rep. Phyllis Pond.

Members Absent: Sen. Scott Schneider; Sen. James Lewis.

Call to Order. Rep. Bischoff called the meeting to order at 1:25 p.m. After an introduction of committee members, Rep. Bischoff called upon Cynthia Hoye, Executive Director of the Indiana State Fair, to comment on new projects at the State Fairgrounds.

New Projects at the State Fair. Director Hoye described the Legacy Bridge, which will be used year round. A Habitat House was build on the Fairgrounds and later moved to a site on College Avenue. A public art display created a platform for discussions on agriculture. The 2010 State Fair will have special promotions, such as \$2 Tuesdays, fried sushi, and a display showcasing the culture of Japan and its connection with Indiana. The Fair will also include a farmers cafe, which will provide local foods and fresh, healthy alternatives to fried foods. The 2010 State Fair has 64 sponsors who help fund agricultural shows at the State Fair. This year is the second year of extended days at the fair. Next year will be the final year of the test run of extended days.

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be obtained electronically by requesting copies at licrequests@iga.in.gov. Hard copies can be obtained in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for hard copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for hard copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.in.gov/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

Proposal by Indiana Winegrowers and the Indiana Brewers Guild. Larry Satek, President of the Indiana Winegrowers Guild, provided an overview of the wine industry in Indiana and detailed specific wineries. There are currently 53 wineries with plans for 12 more within the next 12-18 months. Two-thirds of the wineries grow their own grapes. Of all the grapes used that are not grown in Indiana, 80-90% come from vineyards east of the Mississippi. He noted that the majority of state fairs allow for the sale of wine and beer.

The State Fair wine competition has been moved to Lafayette.

Mr. Satek would like to see a beer and/or wine garden in a controlled area at the State Fair. He would like to see the prohibition against alcohol at the State Fair repealed. He would like to have a window of time at the State Fair where wineries could present their products.

Ted Miller, Brewers of Indiana Guild, proposed selling beer at the 2011 State Fair. Microbrewers, who manufacture on-site, donate spent grain from brewing to farmers to feed cattle or for composting. There are 33 breweries in Indiana. Most breweries with restaurants are also dining establishments.

Jeff Eaton, Barley Island Brewhouse, has had a booth at the State Fair. He is interested in showcasing the educational aspect of brewing and highlighting the connection between breweries and Indiana agriculture.

Director Hoyer explained that the Fair wants to stress agriculture and education. She explained that the Fair could have a restricted area where alcohol could be served; however, no alcohol could be removed from the controlled area. The Fair would display only Indiana products. Individuals would need to be 21 or older to enter the controlled area.

The committee voted by consent to ask that the State Fair Commission put the proposed Indiana wine and beer display and sale at the State Fair on the Commission's agenda.

Annual Report of the Commission Budget. Ms. Hoyer explained that the 2009 State Fair generated \$911,000. The State Fair was able to revert money to the state General Fund by not replacing equipment, re-organizing staff, and reducing golf cart usage.

The Pepsi Coliseum needs repairs. She would like to see a foundation created to allow funds to be collected for the upkeep of the Coliseum. Having a foundation would allow donors to make tax-deductible contributions. The foundation would also be able to receive grants and operate capital campaigns.

The Committee consented by a voice vote to the concept of creating a foundation.

Adjournment. The committee adjourned at around 2:50 p.m.